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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS INFO: SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [ELAB](#) [KDEM](#) [KPAO](#) [KSEP](#) [MZ](#) [DHRF](#)

SUBJECT: Mozambique: Supporting Human Rights and Democracy

REF: State 333935

1. Mozambique's constitutional government, headed by President Joaquim Chissano, held its second general multiparty elections in 1999. President Chissano was elected in generally free and fair elections. Chissano and the leadership of FRELIMO, which have ruled the country since independence in 1975, dominate policymaking and implementation. Mozambique's second municipal elections, held on November 19 2003,, were generally free and fair and occurred without violence. FRELIMO dominated the November elections, winning 28 out of the country's 33 municipalities. Presidential elections will be held in 2004. The Government's human rights record remained poor; although there were some improvements in several areas, serious problems remained. Police continued to commit numerous abuses, including unlawful killings, beatings in custody, and arbitrary arrests and detentions. Prison conditions remained extremely harsh and life threatening. Despite efforts to clear long-standing case backlogs, prison overcrowding was widespread and lengthy pretrial detention was common. The courts were dominated by the executive branch, lacked adequate resources, were chronically understaffed, and largely ineffectual. Corruption continued to be a problem in the public and private sectors. Domestic violence against women, as well as widespread discrimination against women in employment and property rights, remained significant problems. There were confirmed reports that women and children were trafficked to South Africa.

2. US efforts to support human rights and democracy in Mozambique have focused on strengthening key institutions, enhancing civil society, and addressing corruption at all levels. The Embassy has been actively engaged in increasing the professionalism of the police and reforming the judiciary. US officials have routinely engaged religious and business leaders, domestic civil society groups and government officials on human rights concerns, including trafficking in persons, HIV/AIDS, and corruption.

3. To foster a more professional police force and reduce human rights abuses among the police, the Embassy used INL funding for an intermittent long-term International Criminal Investigative Training Program (ICITAP) advisor to assist Mozambique's Police Sciences Academy (ACIPOL) in management and curriculum development and to coordinate specialized training courses. INL funds are also paying for improved facilities. As a result of US and other international assistance, ACIPOL will graduate its first group of students in 2004. INL funded key police officials and officials from the Attorney General's office to participate in courses at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Roswell, New Mexico and the regional ILEA academy in Botswana. PA utilized Speaker Program participants to hold a series of lectures on police ethics.

4. Recognizing that corruption is a principal impediment to Mozambique's economic development and democratic consolidation, USAID used DA and ESF funds to improve the country's judicial system and more effectively address corruption. USAID has actively supported the Anti-Corruption Unit (UAC), including paying rental of UAC's office space and provision of equipment, computers and vehicles. INL funded three trips of Department of Justice/Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training(OPDAT) short-term advisors to assist the UAC in developing skills and tracking cases. Training was also conducted in Maputo involving experts from OPDAT, FBI, and Treasury. An indirect result of US assistance and attention to corruption was the passage by the National Assembly of the long-awaited Anti-Corruption Law, which aims to fight corruption in government offices, hospitals, schools, and the police. USAID also continued use to DA funds to raise public awareness about corruption and citizens rights through assistance to a local NGO on a planned media campaign. This NGO is also working with the UAC to open reporting centers in all ten provincial capitals with toll-free hotlines for reporting corruption.

5. The Embassy, through an inter-agency agreement with the Department of Labor, is working to improve industrial relations in Mozambique. Activities have included training programs that have been furnished by the US Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (FMCS), covering mediation techniques as well as techniques for collaborative labor

relations. In September, a 4-Day Train-the-Trainer Course was held with several trainers and 30 student participants from unions, management and government. The Department of Labor is also funding a US NGO to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the workplace and reduce discrimination.

16. Especially relevant due to the 2003 municipal elections and 2004 national elections, US government efforts in promoting democracy continued to be quite strong. USAID has used DA and ESF funds to support both international and local NGOs. With the assistance of US funding, an international organization provided observers, carried out a parallel vote tabulation in partnership with Mozambican non-governmental organizations, and monitored the post-election process. The group found that Mozambique's second municipal elections were well conducted and peaceful, with no major problems likely to affect the results. The Embassy used both Democracy and Human Rights Funds (DHRF) and USAID funds to support seminars for civil society on civic education. Embassy officials actively participated with the UNDP and other diplomatic missions in the coordination of international observers for the November 19 municipal elections and Embassy staff served as observers in key municipalities during the elections. The Embassy has also actively engaged officials from smaller political parties.

17. Mozambique is a country of origin for trafficked women and children and there is growing attention among government and civil society to the problem. US officials are working with NGOs and government officials to develop more effective mechanisms to address trafficking and better coordinate existing efforts. This year, several DHRF grants were awarded for activities that focus specifically on trafficking and women's issues, including training seminars for police and immigration officials.

18. The Mission also sent various community members and Mozambique government officials on International Visitor Programs in 2003, including in the areas of democracy, civic education, and HIV/AIDS awareness.

19. Addendum. For 2003, funding for democracy and human rights projects of over \$100,000 included:

1. INL - \$250,000 for Police Sciences Academy (ACIPOL).

2. INL - \$275,000 for Anti-Corruption Unit (UAC).

3. USAID (ESF) - \$500,000 for elections activities.

4. USAID (DA) - \$550,000 for anti-corruption activities.

5. DOL - \$300,000 to improve labor relations.

6. DOL - \$900,000 (multi-year) for various projects to address HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

LA LIME